

John and James, his daughter Julie Mulligan, his stepdaughter, Barbara Evans, his stepson James Madigan and his seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the State of Michigan lost one of its most important leaders; his family has lost a father and husband and many have lost a friend. It is with great sadness that we acknowledge his passing but is also my honor to acknowledge the important contributions he has made throughout his life. I will miss his friendship and the State of Michigan will miss his wisdom and service on the bench.

IN RECOGNITION OF CECIL O.
SEWELL, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cecil O. Sewell, Jr., who on April 25, 2004 will celebrate his 50th year in the ministry.

Pastor Sewell was born on August 12, 1936, and was called to the ministry in April of 1954. He continued serving as a minister while he attended college and divinity school. He graduated from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1958, and went on to graduate studies at the University of Alabama. He then attended Divinity School at Houston Baptist University, where he graduated in 1982.

Pastor Sewell has been pastor to six churches. He has gone on missions and done evangelism in twelve states and eight foreign countries, including three missions to Romania and six missions to Brazil. He has served on numerous state and national convention committees and as Trustee of the Baptist Health System. One of the most telling things about Cecil Sewell is that he has been an interim pastor for four churches in his most recent years, having retired from the ministry and been called back to service on these four occasions. He is now interim pastor of First Baptist Church in Saks, Alabama.

I am so very proud to salute Cecil O. Sewell, Jr., for his 50 years of ministry, and appreciate the House's attention today in observance of his ministry.

HONORING MICHAEL SCHOPP

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fifteen year old Michael Schopp, from Creve Coeur, Missouri. In a ceremony honoring his achievement on May 2, 2004, Mr. Schopp will receive the Eagle Scout Award. This award is the highest advancement rank a young man may earn in scouting.

To earn his Eagle Scout Award, Mr. Schopp designed, planned and supervised the construction and landscaping of a planter and two dugout benches for the Ballwin Athletic Association baseball fields where he played ball for several years.

Mr. Schopp began his scouting experience as a Cub Scout in elementary school and has

been a member of Troop 631, sponsored by St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Ballwin, Missouri, since March 2000. Mr. Schopp's dedication to the values of scouting and his leadership ability are demonstrated in his many scouting activities over the years: he has served his Boy Scout Troop as Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader, and is currently one of the leaders of his troop as a member of the Executive Patrol and as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Mr. Schopp participated in the Junior Leader Training Camp and also attended three Boy Scout High Adventure Camps: Northern Tier in Ely, MN; Sea Base in FL; and OKPIL Winter Camp in MN.

I congratulate Mr. Schopp for his success in earning his Eagle Scout Award. First awarded in 1912, the rigorous standards are demonstrated in the fact that only 4 percent of Boy Scouts across America earn this prestigious award. I also commend his peers, members of his troop, coaches, teachers and parents for their support and encouragement that has helped him succeed.

Mr. Speaker. It is with great privilege that I recognize Michael Schopp today before Congress. I applaud him for his success and extend best wishes for all of his future endeavors. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Michael Schopp.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 18TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF NATIONAL MI-
NORITY CANCER AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 18th annual National Minority Cancer Awareness Week and to address an issue that is of grave concern to thousands of Americans. Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans, responsible for one of every four deaths. In 2004, over 560,000 Americans—or more than 1,500 people a day—will die of cancer. Over 18 million new cases of cancer have been diagnosed since 1990, and about 1.4 million new cases will be diagnosed in 2004 alone. I am sure that each of us has either lost a family member or close loved one to this dreadful disease or know of someone who has suffered such a loss.

In 1971, President Nixon and Congress declared an all out war on cancer. Since then, national investment in cancer research and programs have reaped remarkable returns, including a 57 percent decline in cancer mortality rates. Unfortunately, cancer still remains the number two killer in America, just behind heart disease. And despite all the progress that has been made in the battle against cancer, this disease does not affect all races equally. The burden of cancer continues to fall on communities of color. Mr. Speaker, African Americans are more likely to die of cancer than people of any other racial or ethnic group. From 1996 through 2000, the average annual death rate per 100,000 people for all cancers combined was 257 for African Americans, 199 for whites, 138 for Hispanics, 138 for Native Americans/Alaska Natives, and 125 for Asians/Pacific Islanders. In fact, my state

of Maryland ranks 12th in cancer mortality rates among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Between 1996 and 2000, African Americans in Maryland outpaced the national average on every leading cancer mortality index: lung cancer (68.7 per 100,000 persons), colorectal cancer (30.6 per 100,000 persons), breast cancer (35.5 per 100,000 persons), and prostate cancer (75.6 per 100,000 persons). It is estimated that 25,310 new cancer cases will be diagnosed in Maryland, and 10,430 members of my community will die from this disease in 2004.

To make these numbers real, on a national basis if you are a black man in the United States and contract prostate cancer, you have a 73.0 percent mortality rate versus the national average of 32.9 percent. If you are an African American woman and contract breast cancer, you have a higher mortality rate, 35.5 percent versus the national average of 27.7 percent. I am sure like me many of you find these statistics truly shocking.

According to the American Cancer Society, the primary cause of disparities in cancer between African Americans and the general population is poverty. Biological or inherited characteristics are less important than socioeconomic factors in explaining differences in cancer incidence and mortality among major racial and ethnic populations in the United States. As a result, many economically challenged racial and ethnic minorities lack access to high quality health care. The major consequences of inadequate access to preventive services and early detection are that diseases like cancer are more often diagnosed at later stages when the severity is likely to be greater and options for treatment, as well as the odds of survival, are decreased. The future health of America as a whole will be substantially influenced by our success in improving the health of minority and other medically underserved populations.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 18th annual National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, a national campaign initiated by Congress in 1987 to heighten awareness of the unequal cancer burden borne by racial and ethnic minority populations and other medically underserved communities. This week incorporates the theme "Cancer is a Burden, Finding Help Shouldn't Be". The goal is to increase the nation's awareness of the programs and services available in minority communities and to provide an opportunity to engage impacted communities in the fight against cancer. This week also provides an important opportunity to commend those working tirelessly in my district and in communities across this nation to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on this 18th anniversary of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, I urge my colleagues to make cancer research and the eradication of this terrible disease a national priority. Cancer research saves lives. We must maintain the pace of cancer research by increasing the budget of the National Institutes of Health at least 8.5 percent for fiscal year 2005. Unfortunately, the Administration's FY 2005 budget proposal only calls for a 2.6 percent increase, where an 8 percent increase is needed; thereby falling behind inflation and far short of what is required to sustain the current pace of discovery.

Mr. Speaker, we must also address the national nursing shortage. Nurses serve on the